into sterile areas has been tightened. Ladder-point secondary frisking has been introduced.

(iii) Strict control on access to the airports is being ensured by comprehensive review of Photo Identity Cards to restrict the number of pass-holders.

(iv) Deployment of Sky Marshals on flights at random basis as an added safety precaution.

(v) Raising of the perimeter wall to the prescribed height at all the operational airports.

(vi) Replacement of old X-Ray machines and installation of new colour X-Ray machines wherever necessary so as to ensure that atleast two X-Ray machines are available at every point.

(vii) Modernisation and upgradation of security related technological set up at the airports is being done in a phased manner.

Non-Boarding of Confirmed Passenger in AI Flight

4571. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "AI ejects 150 confirmed passengers" as reported in the Hindustan Times dated the 29th February, 2000;

(b) if so, whether the credibility of the Air India is falling day-by-day due to its own policies and decisions;

(c) whether a large number of confirmed ticket holders were not allowed to fly at a number of times; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to improve the functioning of the Air India?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. This was a cascading effect of the cancellation of flight AI-129 of 18.2.2000 on the Bombay/Delhi/London/Chicago route due to the Commander reporting sick at the last minute and no substitute being available.

(c) and (d) In a number of cases problems have been caused due to irresponsible acts of the pilots besides some cases of overbookings which is an industry practice. The passengers offloaded are accommodated in subsequent flights. This matter was also discussed in the last meeting of Parliamentary Consultative Committee held on 29/30 March, 2000. The members of the Committee deplored the indiscipline in Air India pilots and advised strong action. Government is seized of the matter.

Notification on Prohibition of Employment of Contract Labour

4572. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Gazette Notification was issued by the Ministry of Labour on 16th November, 1999 prohibiting employment of contract labour in certain jobs/operations and processes in Air India, Indian Airlines and Airports Authority of India;

(b) the steps taken so far by Air India, Indian Airlines for implementation of the above Notification;

(c) whether Airports Authority of India has filed a writ petition challenging the above Notification;

(d) if so, whether the Airports Authority of India management got prior approval of the Ministry of Civil Aviation; and

(e) if not, the action taken by the Ministry against the management of Ariports Authority of India?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Air India and Indian Airlines have filed writ petitions before the Hon'ble Delhi High Court. The matter is thus, sub-judice.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) No Sir, the Writ Petition was filed by Airports Authority of India (AAI) challenging the Notification as AAI considered the notification not in accordance with the Contract Labour (R&A) Act, 1970 and Rules thereof.